



# LOVING YOUR UNBELIEVER

HOW TO LIVE  
UNEQUALLY YOKED

By Ray Del Toro



**I**t feels like you're not on the same page. "When will he understand?" "Why won't she come to church with me?" "Will we ever agree on this?" "Will she ever get saved?" "Am I doing something wrong?" These questions and more arise when you live with an unbelieving spouse. Being like-minded is essential to relationships, but how can you maintain unity and growth in your marriage when your partner doesn't believe in Christ or live his or her life in obedience to Him? While salvation is a work of the Holy Spirit, you can look for opportunities to be involved as the Lord works in the life and heart of your loved one:

- **BE PRAYERFUL.** Never overlook the proven and practical power of prayer (see James 5:16). Ask the Lord to work in your spouse's life and to use you in pointing them to Christ's love.
- **BE AN EXAMPLE.** Live your life in such obedience to God that all of your actions reflect Christ. Bar none, hypocrisy is the biggest hindrance to faith in Jesus Christ (see Romans 12:9). Practice what you preach, live out your faith, and never stop growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ.
- **BE LOVING.** Unconditional, sacrificial, and Christ-centered love is one of the most powerful



influences you have on your unbeliever (see Proverbs 10:12).

- **BE BOLD.** Talk openly about your faith and always be ready to give an answer for the hope you have in Jesus (see 1 Peter 3:15).
- **BE GENTLE.** You will never regret exhibiting a gentle and quiet spirit (see 1 Peter 3:4). It's been said, "Win the man, not the argument."
- **TRUST GOD.** Enough said.
- **BE PATIENT.** God calls everyone to Himself individually and uniquely. Don't expect everyone to have the same experience. Don't let your desire for their life-change or salvation distract you from your walk with God. Remember, God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness (see 2 Peter 1:3). He will accomplish His will, in His time and His way.

Don't miss out on the opportunities you have as a believer to point your loved one to Jesus and the forgiveness He made possible on the cross. Remember, it is God's desire to see your partner come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ; He is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). God is on your side.